

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A pedestal which comprises

10 (1) a pedestal base having an upper surface which defines at least two pairs of open channels, each pair of open channels being sized and spaced so that a straight support member of constant cross section can be slidably fitted into the pair of channels, with a midsection of the support member lying between the open channels and having an open space underneath it, and the pairs of channels being placed on the upper surface so that, when a straight support member is fitted into each pair of channels, the support members are parallel to each other; and

15 (2) at least two support members, each support member being fitted into one of the pairs of channels in the upper surface of the pedestal base, and the support members having top surfaces which lie in a single horizontal plane which is higher than the upper surface of the pedestal base.

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2. (Withdrawn) A pedestal according to claim 1 wherein the pedestal base comprises a hollow tube having an upper peripheral surface which defines the pairs of open channels and a lower peripheral surface.

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3. (Withdrawn) A pedestal according to claim 2 wherein the hollow tube is cylindrical and the upper and lower peripheral surfaces lie in parallel planes.

4. (Withdrawn) A pedestal according to claim 3 wherein the pedestal base comprises two or more tubular members which can be rotated relative to each other about the axis of the pedestal base.

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5. (Withdrawn) A pedestal according to claim 4 wherein the pedestal base comprises a lower tubular member, an upper tubular member, and a tubular linking member which

- 5 (a) lies between the lower and upper tubular members,
(b) comprises
(i) a radial section which extends between the upper and lower members, and
(ii) a tubular section having an upper portion which is adjacent to but spaced apart from the upper tubular member and a lower portion which is adjacent to but spaced apart from the lower tubular member.

6. (Withdrawn) A pedestal according to claim 2 wherein the hollow tube has an open cross-section throughout its height.

7. (Currently amended) A pedestal which comprises

(1) a pedestal base having an upper surface which defines at least two pairs of open channels, each pair of open channels being sized and spaced so that a straight support member of constant cross section can be slidably fitted into the pair of channels, with a midsection of the support member lying between the open channels and having an open space underneath it, and the pairs of channels being placed on the upper surface so that, when a straight support member is fitted into each pair of channels, the support members are parallel to each other; and

(2) at least two support members, each support member being fitted into one of the pairs of channels in the upper surface of the pedestal base, and the support members having top surfaces which lie in a single horizontal plane which is higher than the upper surface of the pedestal base.

~~according to claim 1 wherein the pedestal base comprises the pedestal base~~

comprising two spaced-apart wall members which are connected to each other only

by the support members, each wall member having one of the open channels of each pair of channels.

5 8. (Withdrawn) A pedestal according to claim 1 wherein the pedestal base comprises an undulating upper surface which includes the pairs of open channels.

9. (Withdrawn) A pedestal according to claim 8 wherein the upper surface is corrugated.

10 10. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A pedestal according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 1 wherein the pedestal base comprises two or more separably interlocking spaced-apart wall members, each wall member having one of the open channels of each pair of channels.

15 11. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A pedestal according to claim 1 wherein the pedestal base comprises at least 4 pairs of channels, the number of the support members is equal to the number of pairs of channels; each of the support members is a straight support member slidably fitted into one of the pairs of channels; and the support members have the same cross section; ~~and the top surfaces of the support member lie in the same horizontal plane.~~

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12. (Withdrawn) A pedestal according to claim 11 wherein the support members have a square cross-section

25 13. (Withdrawn) A pedestal according to claim 11 wherein the support members have a round cross-section.

14. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A pedestal according to claim 1 which comprises

30 (1) a first base pedestal which has the pairs of open channels in its upper surface,

(2) a second base pedestal which has the pairs of open channels in its upper periphery and which is connected to the first base pedestal only by the support members, spaced apart from the first base pedestal, and

(3) a plurality of straight support members each of which is slidably fitted into a pair of open channels in the first base pedestal and into a pair of open channels in the second base pedestal.

15. (Withdrawn) A pedestal according to claim 14 which comprises an upper member having a lower peripheral surface including at least two pairs of open channels which are sized and spaced so that the upper member is slidably fitted on top of the support members.

16. (Withdrawn) A kit of parts which comprises a pedestal base as defined in claim 1 and support members as defined in claim 1.

17. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A pedestal base which comprises a hollow tube having an upper peripheral surface and a lower peripheral surface, the upper peripheral surface including at least two pairs of open channels, each pair of open channels being sized and spaced around the peripheral surface so that a straight support member of constant cross-section can be slidably fitted into the pair of channels, and the pairs of channels being spaced around the upper peripheral surface so that, when a straight support member is fitted into each pair of channels, all the support members are parallel to each other and lie in the same horizontal plane.

18. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A pedestal base which comprises (i) a lower surface which can rest stably on a flat surface and (ii) an undulating upper surface which includes at least two pairs of open channels, each pair of open channels being sized and spaced on the undulating upper surface so that a straight support member of constant cross-section can be slidably fitted into the pair of channels, and the pairs of channels being positioned on the upper surface so that, when a straight support

member is fitted into each pair of channels, all the support members are parallel to each other and lie in the same horizontal plane.

19. (Withdrawn) A pedestal base which comprises two or more separably
5 interlocking wall members which together provide (i) a lower surface which can rest
stably on a flat surface and (ii) an upper surface which includes at least two pairs of
open channels, each pair of open channels being sized and spaced on the upper
surface so that a straight support member of constant cross-section can be slidably
fitted into the pair of channels, and the pairs of channels being positioned on the upper
10 surface so that, when a straight support member is fitted into each pair of channels, all
the support members are parallel to each other.

20. (Canceled)

15 21. (New). A pedestal according to claim 7 wherein the pedestal
base comprises at least 4 pairs of channels, the number of the support members is
equal to the number of pairs of channels; each of the support members is a straight
support member slidably fitted into one of the pairs of channels; and the support
members have the same cross section.

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22. (New) A pedestal according to claim 21 wherein the support members have
a square cross-section

23. (New) A pedestal according to claim 21 wherein the support members
25 have a round cross-section.

24. (New) A pedestal according to claim 7 which comprises an upper member
having a lower peripheral surface including at least two pairs of the open channels
which are sized and spaced so that the upper member is slidably fitted on top of the
30 support members.

25. (New) A pedestal according to claim 7 wherein

- (a) each of the support members has a height h ,
- (b) the pedestal base has upper surfaces which lie in a horizontal plane,
and

5 (c) the distance between (i) the horizontal plane in which the upper surfaces of the pedestal base lie and (ii) the horizontal plane in which the top surfaces of the support member lie, is from $0.3h$ to $0.7h$.

26. (New) A pedestal according to claim 1 wherein

- 10 (a) each of the support members has a height h ,
 - (b) the pedestal base has upper surfaces which lie in a horizontal plane,
and
 - (c) the distance between (i) the horizontal plane in which the upper surfaces of the pedestal base lie and (ii) the horizontal plane in which the top
- 15 surfaces of the support member lie, is from $0.3h$ to $0.7h$.